



# Army Engineer Spouses' Club Castle Gram

Volume V, Issue III

October, 2014

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## Membership Reminder:

If you have not joined or re-joined the club this year, please complete the membership application (in this newsletter or on-line) so that you will be included in this year's Redbook.

Thank you!

## Trees

*I think that I shall never see  
A poem lovely as a tree.*

*A tree whose hungry mouth is prest  
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;*

*A tree that looks at God all day,  
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;*

*A tree that may in Summer wear  
A nest of robins in her hair;*

*Upon whose bosom snow has lain;  
Who intimately lives with rain.*

*Poems are made by fools like me,  
But only God can make a tree.*

*-- Joyce Kilmer*



**"Keeping our worldwide Engineer family connected -  
through the years and across the miles."**



## The Gavel



### ...a note from our President

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Dear Army Engineer Spouses' Club,

Boo! No matter your age, it is always easy to get excited about Halloween as there are so many ways to celebrate. Donning a witches hat and passing out candy at the door, sewing at the machine for hours so your loved one (big or small) has the pirate costume of their dreams, or shopping till you drop in search of the perfect decoration - everyone can have a little fun with this holiday. LTG and Mrs. Bostick are no exception. Because the Army Engineer Spouses' Club Annual Cocktail Party has fallen in late October for the past few years, those of us lucky enough to be in town and attend have taken delight in seeing the Chief's house decorated with Halloween accents everywhere. Put on your cocktail dress, hang a tie on your hubby and join us this year - I promise you will be glad you came! The Bosticks are charming hosts and you will certainly see friendly, and most likely familiar, faces while supporting a worthy cause. Remember - all of the donations collected that evening will support our Army Engineer Memorial Awards!

We are delighted to welcome a few new members to our AESC Board. Erica Shaw will join Holly Scherer, our Army Engineer Memorial Awards Treasurer, as the Scholarship Chair, in charge of the coordination of both applications and recipient selection. Sheila Kelly has agreed to be our Ways and Means Chairperson, responsible for the Castle Boutique - a major fundraiser for the Awards. Both ladies bring an extensive wealth of knowledge to our board along with new visions and exciting plans for their respective positions.

As we continue to encourage club membership for all Army Engineer and Corps of Engineer spouses, we recognize that we need to bridge the challenge of our geographic separation. Toward that effort our web-master, Laura Putnam, is shrinking the miles on a monthly basis! Take a look at our web site and note that under the "Membership Only" tab, you can not only read past Castle Grams, but now are able to browse minutes from the monthly board meetings. You can access the tab with the password noted in the recently sent "AESC Welcome Letter." While board meetings are open to all members, we recognize attendance is impossible for the majority of our members. We hope that posting the minutes for all to read will provide the opportunity for each of you to have input on the business conducted within the club. Have a question?... Recommendation? ... Need clarification? ... Want to help? Contact us through the site - we promise to get back to you!

Warmly,

Connie

## 2014-2015 AESC BOARD

### Elected Officers

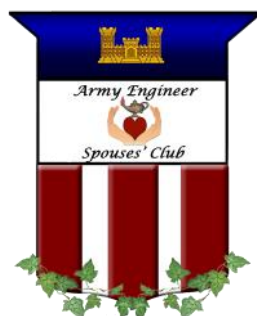
PRESIDENT – CONNIE SEMONITE  
 VICE-PRESIDENT – ALLISON CHAMBERLAYNE  
 SECRETARY – ALLISON CHAMBERLAYNE  
 TREASURER – KATHY MOAKLER  
 AEMA CHAIRPERSON – HOLLY SCHERER

### APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS

PARLIAMENTARIAN – ROZ RILEY  
 MEMBERSHIP – JACKIE CALDWELL  
 HOSPITALITY – LYNDA FLOWERS  
 AEMA SCHOLARSHIP – ERICA SHAW  
 MEDIA TEAM: PUBLICITY/HISTORIAN – GLENDA HUDSON  
 NEWSLETTER – KAREN ANDERSON  
 WEBMASTER – LAURA PUTNAM  
 FACEBOOK – LISA STEVENSON  
 CIRCULATION – KARA ANDERSON  
 RESERVATIONS – ANITA LINK  
 WAYS AND MEANS – SHEILA KELLY  
 WELFARE/SERVICES – KIMBERLY OBORSKI  
 LIAISON CHAIR: KNOLLWOOD – VACANT  
 FAIRFAX – JOYCE REBH AND KAY BURLIN  
 KNOLLWOOD BAKE SALE – PRISCILLA NOAH  
 NOMINATIONS – BETTE MEULENERS  
 AD HOC VOLUNTEER—PAT O'NEILL AND  
 BETH MAZZANTI

### ADVISORS

RENEE BOSTICK - SPOUSE, CHIEF OF ENGINEERS  
 VICKY GRONINGER - SPOUSE, CSM OF ENGINEERS  
 JACKIE CALDWELL- SES SPOUSE, DIRECTOR- MILPO  
 JOAN STOCKTON-SES SPOUSE, DIRECTOR-CEO



2014-2015 AESC BOARD

AEA ENVELOPE STUFFING

# AEA envelope stuffing party

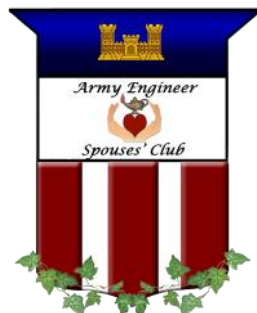
## OCT. 8, 2014

Thanks to the wonderful volunteers who spent an afternoon stuffing envelopes!





AEA ENVELOPE STUFFING



## Upcoming Events

### Board Meeting

*Please join us at our upcoming Board Meeting*

*AESC Board Meeting*

*November 5*

*11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.*

*At the*

*Fairfax Village Neighborhood Center*

*10265 Fairfax Drive*

*Fort Belvoir, VA*

## OCTOBER ACTIVITY



We cannot wait for our signature event of the year! The Welcome Cocktail party will be held at the home of the Chief of Engineers on October 25th from 5-7pm. Please make sure you RSVP for this event!

*The Army Engineer Spouses' Club  
cordially invites you and your spouse/guest  
to join us at our annual*

*Welcome Cocktail Party*

*Saturday, October 25, 2013  
5:00 to 7:00 PM  
at the home of*

*LTG and Mrs. Tom Bostick  
Quarters 7 Fort McNair  
Washington, DC*

*Coat and Tie*

*Please RSVP by October 20th to:  
Anita Link, 301 371-8896  
anitaglink@aol.com*

*Voluntary donations to Army Engineer Memorial*

*Award Fund will be accepted.  
Suggested: \$20 per person  
(This donation is tax deductible)*

UPCOMING EVENTS





**Wednesday, November 19th - ROAD TRIP!**

**November 19, 2014**

**10:30am Re-Love It, 138 N. 21st Street, Purcellville, VA**

**11:30am Magnolia's at the Mill, 198 N. 21st Street, Purcellville,  
VA**

**RSVP [allison@chamberlayne.net](mailto:allison@chamberlayne.net) or 540-449-3061**

**AESC is hitting the road! Join us for a day in Purcellville, Virginia. We will start our day at 10:30am on November 19th at a consignment store called Re-Love It (138 N. 21st Street). Re-**

**Love it was featured in Northern Virginia Magazine a few months back. "Women and men ready to sift through an endless number of name-brand items for unbelievably affordable prices or unique items for the home. As consignment style becomes more and more popular, don't be surprised to find shoppers from all over Virginia stopping by. "**

**At 11:30am, we will head down the block for lunch at Magnolia's at the Mill. This great restaurant was featured in the Washington Post and I will grab a few sentences from their review. "This gorgeous old building began life as a flour mill in 1905, and when the restaurant moved into the space 99 years later, the owners kept most of the graceful three-story building intact, along with a number of the old**

**wooden pulleys and buckets that hang overhead." ... "For snacking, you won't go wrong with the flatbreads, which are mini-pizzas topped with a variety of meats and cheeses; the one with the chorizo sausage, spinach and five-cheese blend made the best impression. It's also worth noting the martinis, which veer toward the sweet-and-fruity end of the spectrum; the interesting wine list, which contains a few good Virginia bottles; and limited-time-only selections of wine."**



I will need a head count for the reservation, so please RSVP for this event by contacting Allison at [allison@chamberlayne.net](mailto:allison@chamberlayne.net) or 540-449-3061.

After lunch, you can choose to explore this cute town on your own or head out to the nearby outlet mall in Leesburg. Hope to see many of our members at this fun event.



*Save The Date!*

*DECEMBER ACTIVITY: December 17, 2014*

*Save the date! We will be heading to the Gaylord for lunch on December 17th. More details to follow, but please pencil in the date on your calendar.*

UPCOMING EVENTS



OCTOBER BOARD MEETING

**PAST Events**



*The AESC October board meeting was held on October 1, from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., at the Fairfax Village Neighborhood Center, Fort Belvoir, VA*

*Thank you to Roz Riley for hosting, and to Vicky Groninger for providing refreshments.*





PAST EVENTS

SEPTEMBER ACTIVITY



The Engineer Round-Up was held on Thursday, September 25th, from 5-7pm at the Crystal City Gateway Marriott.

Thanks for all those who came out to the Engineer Round Up! It was great to reconnect with some long time friends as well as meet new faces. We welcomed some new members and even gave away a set of our fabulous Engineer Tervis Tumblers to LTC McAnderson. We pulled from names of anyone present who was a member or whose spouse was an AESC member. Congrats to the McAnderson family. Visit the CastleBoutique on our web site if you'd like a set of tumblers of your own!

The Engineer Round-Up is a monthly event held by the Office of the Chief of Engineers to bring together all the engineers in the National Capitol region for socializing and networking. Anyone who can call themselves an Engineer is always welcome to attend! This includes retirees and spouses. These events are advertised in the Engineer Blast as well as an email distribution. This distribution list is comprised of Engineers assigned to the Pentagon zip code and another list made up of people that have been added by their request over the years. The main distribution list is updated about every six months. If you want to get on this list to be informed of future Round-Ups, please contact Bill Arthur: [william.r.arthur.civ@mail.mil](mailto:william.r.arthur.civ@mail.mil)

(Submitted by Allison Chamberlayne: [allison@chamberlayne.net](mailto:allison@chamberlayne.net))



## S'MORES BROWNIE RECIPE

Here are a wonderful fall recipe that was served at the October board meeting:

Thanks to Vicky Groninger for this wonderful treat!



S'mores brownies

- 1 box Brownie mix (water, eggs, oil as per directions)
- 2 cups mini marshmallows
- graham crackers
- 1 1/2 cup chocolate chips

Make brownies per instructions on box. After removing from oven, sprinkle marshmallows and chocolate chips over warm brownies. Return to hot oven for about 3-5 minutes to melt the chips and marshmallows. Arrange graham crackers on top of hot marshmallow/chip mixture and press down lightly. Cool completely. Cut into servings around graham crackers.

*Birthdays.....*

October

Giner Hopkins	Oct. 5
Jules Bigelow	Oct. 7
Martha Kem	Oct. 9
Vickie Brown	Oct. 13
Gene Villiva	Oct. 13
Michelle Funkhouser	Oct. 17
Laura Putnam	Oct. 18
Renee Bostick	Oct. 20
Judy Castro	Oct. 21
Dee Lee	Oct. 31

November

Leanne Ogden	Nov 04
Kristine Schuster	Nov 04
Pat O'Neill	Nov 18
Majorie Williams	Nov 18
Ann Kem	Nov 21
Carolyn Wallace	Nov 21
Karina Hunter	Nov 22
Jacqui Ellis	Nov 23
Jacki Dixon	Nov 25
Norma Erwin	Nov 28
Nancy Temple	Nov 28



MEMBER CELEBRATIONS



## A Brief History of Poet Joyce Kilmer

My father has always loved the poem called “Trees,” written by Joyce Kilmer. For years I heard him recite this poem, which he had memorized as a school assignment when he was a young boy.

We assumed that Joyce Kilmer was a woman, but one day my father asked me to use my smart phone to learn more about this poet. We were surprised to learn the following information:

Joyce Kilmer was born on Dec. 6, 1886, in New Brunswick, N.J., U.S. He died on July 30, 1918, near Seringes, France.

Kilmer was an American poet known chiefly for his 12-line verse entitled “Trees.” He was educated at Rutgers and Columbia universities. His first volume of verse, *Summer of Love* (1911), showed the influence of William Butler Yeats and the Irish poets. After his conversion to Catholicism, Kilmer attempted to model his poetry upon that of Coventry Patmore and the 17th-century Metaphysical poets. His most famous poem, “Trees,” appeared in *Poetry* magazine in 1913. The poem’s immediate and continued popularity has been attributed to its combination of sentiment and simple philosophy. His books include *Trees and Other Poems* (1914); *The Circus and Other Essays* (1916); *Main Street and Other Poems* (1917); and *Literature in the Making* (1917), a series of interviews with writers. Kilmer joined the staff of *The New York Times* in 1913. In 1917, he edited *Dreams and Images*, an anthology of modern Catholic poetry.

Kilmer married Aline Murray, who was also an accomplished poet and author, and they had five children.

During World War I, Kilmer was deployed to Europe. He enlisted in the New York National Guard and deployed to France with the 69th Infantry Regiment (the famous "Fighting 69th") in 1917. At the time of his deployment, he was considered the leading American Roman Catholic poet and lecturer of his generation. He was killed by a sniper's bullet at the Second Battle of the Marne in 1918 at the age of 31. Kilmer was posthumously awarded the Croix de Guerre.

As I was searching for an appropriate front page story for this month's Castle Gram, I found this beautiful fall photo of a tree. Including the photo of the tree reminded me of this poem. I hope that you have enjoyed reading the poem and a brief history of the poet, perhaps for the very first time.

Embrace the beautiful fall season!

Karen Anderson

(references: Encyclopedia Britannica, Wikipedia)





**The Army Engineer Spouses' Club welcomes membership from spouses of all U.S. Army Engineers and civilian employees of USACE and, with approval of the Executive Board, other persons who are associated with the Corps of Engineers.**

#### **2014-2015 AESC MEMBERSHIP**

**There are two options for submitting 2014-2015 membership forms and dues.**

- 1. An electronic membership form with paypal on the AESC website**
- 2. Our traditional mail-in membership form**

**We look forward to receiving many electronic memberships. As always, our AESC post office mailbox will be checked frequently for mailed memberships.**



**"LIKE" us on Facebook!**



## AESC 2014-2015 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PRINT NAME as you would like to be listed in the Castle Directory (The Redbook)

Last \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address  
\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred contact phone:  
\_\_\_\_\_E-mail  
\_\_\_\_\_

Your Birthday (month/day only) \_\_\_\_\_

Check one:  New member  Returning member  Rejoining member

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Check one: Is Spouse:  Active  Retired  Reserve/National Guard  DeceasedSpouse's title/rank/job assignment or firm  
\_\_\_\_\_

By sending this application, you agree to have the above information listed in the Castle Directory.

Membership runs from July 1, 2014 until June 30, 2015. Membership information received by Oct 31st, 2014 will be included in the 2014-2015 Castle Directory.

Thank you!

Annual dues + 1 copy of the Castle Directory \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Castle Directory: Each \$5 \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to AESC and mail to:

AESC MEMBERSHIP

P.O. Box 6332

Alexandria, VA 22306-6332

Join online at [www.armyengineerspouses.com](http://www.armyengineerspouses.com)

The AESC mission is to keep our Army Engineer family connected. We value membership as a way of keeping Army Engineer friendships alive through member information in the Castle Directory. We welcome your active participation. Let a board member know if you would like to:

- write regular or occasional articles for the Castle Gram,
- volunteer your computer skills,
- host an AESC-sponsored activity or fund-raising event in your area,
- provide pictures of member weddings, births, retirement, or other events of interest to the Army Engineer family.

MEMBERSHIP



AESC  
P.O. Box 6332  
Alexandria, VA 22306-6332